

Sinclair Broadcast Group's recent actions have illustrated the dangers to localism caused by media consolidation.

As of now the FCC hasn't done anything to stem the tide of corporate control of public airwaves. These airwaves are being used simply to further these corporations economic and political ends.

This episode has highlighted the need for a change in direction away from media consolidation toward greater public control of the airwaves. This may take a change of administrations in Washington. Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard.

Thank you.

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